

Bladderwort *Utricularia* spp.

Native to the Chesapeake Bay

Family - Lentibulariaceae

Distribution - Several species of bladderwort occur in the Chesapeake Bay region, primarily in the quiet freshwater of ponds and ditches. Bladderworts can also be found on moist soils associated with wetlands.

Recognition - Bladderworts are small herbs that are found floating in shallow water or growing on very moist soils. The stems are generally horizontal and submerged. Leaves are alternate, linear or dissected often appearing opposite or whorled. The branches are often much dissected, appear rootlike and have bladders with bristles around the openings. Bladderworts are considered carnivorous because minute animals can be trapped and digested in the bladders that occur on the underwater leaves.

